Kazakhsthan collided in midair over Charkhi-Dadri in Haryana. The loss of so many lives has stunned the whole world. Whatever be the cause of the accident, the loss suffered by the kith and kin of the deceased is irreparable. Our hearts go out in sympathy to the bereaved and we offer them our heartfelt condolences.

I request Hon. Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the victims of the tragedies.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Sir, in UP gross violation of Constitutional norms has taken place ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I have given notice for suspension of the Question Hour to discuss ...*(Interruptions)*... the loss of life and property due to floods in Andhra Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, a lot of lives were lost in Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : The Constitution is being violated.

Democracy is being killed ...*(Interruptions)*...

Gross violation of Constitutional norms by the Governor of UP ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री : वहां के राज्यपाल को बरखास्त करो। ..(व्यवधान)..

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: There is a very serious threat to the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: In Andhra Pradesh thousands of people have died ...*(Interruptions)*... ..वहां के साइक्लोन के बारे में बोलना चाह रहे हैं। ....(व्यवधान)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: In Andhra Pradesh, and also in Pondicherry, we have lost a lot of lives ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, hon. Members, in the circumstances, I have to adjourn the House till tomorrow morning.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Performance of Telephone Services

*1. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the telephone services throughout the country has been deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, whether any review of the performance of telephone services has been made by Government and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to improve the basic telephone services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The operational performance of the telephone services is being reviewed periodically at the top management levels. There has been an improvement in performance during the last few months.

(c) To improve the basic services in the country, the following steps have been taken:—

— Special Cells have been opened in all Telecom Circles to monitor essential services parameters and take corrective action.

— Replacement of all old and life expired electro-mechanical exchanges by State of the art digital electronic exchanges.

— Replacement of fault prone underground cables by Jelly filled cables.

— Upgradation of the outdoor plant network by laying of cables in ducts.

— Introduction of modern tools and testing aids.

— Training of operational staff in modern technology systems being inducted in the DOT network.

— Customer Service Centres have been opened in large number of places.